

THE MORNING NEWS

Your Source for local news in English

Caya G.F. Betico Croes 111 T. 588-9517 F. 5889518.

Census office asks for public understanding and cooperation during renovations of Stadhuis



Census office and Stadhuis



Censo and Hotel Colombia under repair

ORANJESTAD -- On Wednesday morning, February 19, the Census headquarters in Oranjestad was closed due to necessary work on the air-conditioning system. This inconvenience is indicative of much more extensive work need on the entire building complex consisting of the Stadhuis, the Census office and the former Hotel Colombia, which houses workers from the civil offices.

It was announced in 2010

the Census would be moved to the former DOW building on the western outskirts of Oranjestad, but that structure still required at least 18 months of renovations to prepare.

Censo Director Sharin Luydens joined the Director of Aruba's Monument Bureau, Anne Witsenburg de Jong to ask the public to please be patient with the census office and assure the public they are attempting to remedy the situ-

ation with all speed.

The Stadhuis, or Town Hall, is an important landmark structure that is now undergoing extensive renovation. The former Hotel Colombia is also a landmark of some importance. The Census office bridges the two structures, as their work is closely involved with the civil marriage ceremonies taking place in the Stadhuis, and the other historic structure is part of their offices.

However, being very old buildings, there are inherent problems, such as the condensation from the air-conditioning system causing fungus growth, contributing to unhealthy working conditions.

Continued on page 2

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Venezuela tells CNN journalists to 'get out'

CARACAS -- Venezuela has revoked or denied press credentials for CNN journalists in the country, following the president's announcement he would expel CNN if it did not "rectify" its coverage of anti-government protests.

"They want to show the world that there is a civil war in Venezuela," President Nicolas Maduro said in a televised speech.

Anti-government protests have become a daily occurrence in the country, and clashes with security forces or pro-government supporters have resulted in at least eight deaths, officials said.

What CNN is not showing, Maduro said, is "the people working, studying, building the homeland."

"Enough war propaganda. I do not accept war propaganda against Venezuela. If they do not rectify things, get out of Venezuela, CNN, get out," Maduro said, to applause from his pro-government audience.

"Fuera! Fuera!" people in the crowd shouted -- "Out! Out!"

Hours later, government officials notified seven journalists for CNN International and CNN en Español that their press accreditation had been denied or revoked.

CNN teams from outside Venezuela were told to book

flights back to their home countries.

Maduro described CNN's journalists with some of the same adjectives he uses for his political opponents.

"A group of fascists with their aggressions want to take us away from peace," Maduro said. "They are not going to do that. And we are going to show them."

When members of the CNN International team were told their credentials were denied, they were asked several times when they would be leaving the country.

While the journalists were asked to leave, CNN International and CNN en Español continue to broadcast in Venezuela.

CNN has repeatedly asked for a meeting with officials, and a CNN reporter has been invited to a news conference yesterday afternoon where Maduro spoke. CNN en Español's correspondent in Caracas was also invited to the event.

"CNN has reported both sides of the tense situation in Venezuela, even with very limited access to government officials," CNN en Español said in a statement, adding that at the time its credentials were revoked, CNN was seeking an

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Government meets with reps of important organizations



ORANJESTAD -- This week the Prime Minister Mike Eman and Minister of Economic Affairs, Energy, Communication and Environment, Mike de Meza, sat down at the table with several work groups in charge of different organizations for the planning of the execution of different important projects for the island. Specifically, the planning entails the 4th Aruba Green Conference, the second Europe Meets the Americas, and the presentation by the Prime Minister at the TEDxBinnenhof conference, as well as the development of Aruba's third economic pillar, the knowledge industry. Several departments and government organizations, such as ARINA and TNO are involved in the planning process.

The TEDxBinnenhof con-

ference is an international conference which takes place in The Haag and serves as a platform for innovative ideas for Holland and the Dutch Kingdom. The emphasis is on innovation that focuses on solutions for problems affecting all communities around the world. The thought goes out to climatic changes, mobility, health, security/safety and alternative energy. TEDxBinnenhof has a very large audience in Holland, Europe and internationally.

With respect to the Green Conference and the Europe Meets the Americas, the idea is to combine the two conferences into one grand event in 2014 with the additional theme of the environment.

The third item on the agenda in this gathering with

the departments was the sector of knowledge as the third economic pillar for Aruba. There are local and international companies, both small and large that have demonstrated interest in and want to form part of this important development. According to Minister de Meza, the bridge between Aruba and North America has been built based on tourism, but now we must cover the other areas. The government's objective, reportedly, is to create jobs for all our people who have studied in the US and Europe to come to Aruba and become part of the development of this industry.

The Aruba Green Conference and Europe Meets the Americas are programmed to be held in the month of October.

Census office asks for public understanding and cooperation

Continued from page 1



Representing the SVB, Monumentenbureau and Census office

Secondly, the extensive renovation work creates dust and noise that further exacerbates the workers' anxiety over the conditions within the building.

They are attempting to remedy the situation with all speed. During a press conference yesterday afternoon, they announced the temporary solution for the situation, until the Census office moves into its permanent home, will be announced this coming Wednesday February 26.

Anne Witsenburg de Jong stated the finances and plan are in place, and they wish to complete the Stadhuis with all speed. Presently, civil wedding ceremonies are being performed at Fort Zoutman, across the street. They had tried working in phases to complete the interior repairs, but this proved much too disruptive to the census office workers.

Sharin Luydens asks that individuals needing the 5 florin and 10 florin statements of residence please go to the Census branch offices in San Nicolas, Santa Cruz or Noord to obtain them, thus lightening the traffic to the Oranjestad Headquarters. Those requiring to pay for the papers obtaining to their work and residence permits can do so at the Tax

Office and it will be handled directly by DIMAS.

Despite the conditions, work at the Census is proceeding as usual, and there is no intention to close it for any extended period. The parties involved just wish for the public to understand the situation as it stands at present, and to have patience with those working at civil office working under these stressful conditions.

Venezuela tells CNN journalists...

Continued from page 1

"We hope the government will reconsider its decision. Meanwhile, we will continue reporting on Venezuela in the fair, accurate and balanced manner we are known for."

A top legislative leader for the ruling party said the government will investigate the allegations against CNN, and will not "tremble in acting against those who make an attempt against the motherland."

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Tierra del Sol gets unanimous vote of confidence from unsecured creditors



MALMOK -- "Definitieve Surseance van Betaling". This outcome represents a huge vote of confidence in the new management and prospective new owners of Tierra del Sol and provides them the time necessary to prepare an unsecured creditor payment plan. The hearing was presided over by Judge W. Noordhuizen.

The court appointed Administrator, Mr. Randolph van Eps, shared highlights from his report about the situation at Tierra del Sol. This included a detailed account of the large debt owing to government, banks, and unsecured creditors as well as the critical investments and efforts that have been made to date to turn the business around.

The prospective new owners of Tierra del Sol then sum-

marized the grim situation they encountered when they first became involved with the project in 2013. They also highlighted what has been accomplished in a short period of time including paying employee pension that had been unpaid, restarting employee health benefits that were suspended, stabilizing the business, and most notably not laying off even one employee during this period.

Following the presentations, the unsecured creditors voted unanimously in favor of Definitieve Surseance van Betaling, which was granted by Judge Noordhuizen.

Following the hearing, the prospective new owners of Tierra del Sol said, "We are certainly pleased with the confidence and support shown by everyone today and throughout this entire process. We all recognize that a bankruptcy of Tierra del Sol would have an enormous negative impact on tourism and on the economy of Aruba. About 300 families depend on Tierra del Sol in some way for their livelihood.

Today was an important step of many that are still necessary to bring certainty to the success of Tierra del Sol once and for all".

The unsecured creditor plan is expected to be presented and voted upon by April 30, 2014.



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Venezuelan government denounces attack on the country's consular office in Aruba; closes consular offices in ABC islands

ORANJESTAD -- The Venezuelan Minister for Foreign Affairs, Elias Jaua, reported that the consular office of Venezuela in Aruba suffered damages by a vehicle this Friday.

"We want to make a call to those who have promoted this hatred, to those who have instilled this intolerance leading to a Venezuelan citizen, residing on that island, to attack a consular office of your country putting his own lives at risk," the Minister said.

He accused the media of inoculating hatred. "I am amazed of how far the ability has come to inoculate hate. With a perverse use of social networks, promoting intolerance of class and race," Jaua said.

The Minister said that he has asked the Dutch authorities to deport the Venezuelan citizen who was involved in this incident. "We request the concerned citizen to be deported so the Venezuelan justice can deal with him accordingly."

Jaua explained that the order of President Nicolas Maduro was for a preventive closure of the consulates in Aruba, Curacao and Bonaire as well as the removal of



Venezuelan citizens working in the consular buildings in those countries. He also said that, "we called our ambassador in Holland to get more knowledge on the position of the Dutch government regarding this serious attack on our consular office."

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ECLAC launches poster and essay competition to celebrate the Int'l. Year of Small Island Developing States in 2014

THE CARIBBEAN -- Students from 28 countries in the region have been invited to participate in competitions to celebrate in 2014 the International Year of Small Island Developing States (IYS).

A poster competition for primary and secondary schools and an essay competition for secondary and tertiary level students organised by the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) are the first of a number of region-wide activities in which ECLAC plans to engage the countries of the subregion throughout the year, to raise awareness and promote wider knowledge and understanding of the critical issues relevant to the sustainable development aspirations of Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

These competitions are intended to encourage the youth of the Caribbean to express their perspective on both the challenges and opportunities of small island living through art and the written word.

The contests are open to children and youth of the 16 Caribbean States that are members of the United Nations and the 12 non-self-governing Caribbean territories that are Associate Member Countries of ECLAC.

For the poster competition,

participants are invited to create an artistic rendering that expresses their vision of one of the following selected themes:

- a. Island living: small is beautiful
- b. Protecting our island home: the impact of climate change
- c. A rich heritage and culture: the true wealth of our nations
- d. Going green: reducing waste and promoting sustainable energy use

The essay writers will address the topic "Unleashing the creativity and resilience of our people to build prosperous Caribbean Societies".

The deadline for submission of all entries is 28 February 2014.

National winners will be selected by local panels from the participating countries. ECLAC will make the final selections, and announce the regional winners by 31 March 2014. The winners will be lauded at the high level celebration of the International Year of SIDS which will be held in Kingston, Jamaica on 24 April 2014.

For further information please contact Ms. Denise Balgobin at denise.balgobin@eclac.org and (368)224-8075 or Ms. Veera Deokiesingh-Fraser at veera.deokiesingh-fraser@eclac.org, and (368) 224-8006.

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Openingshow	TBS Brassband	Bar SAC	
Group	Band	Participants	Pieces
1. Aruba Carnaval 60 Queen			
2. Meta Social Club	3 musical bands	300	1 roadpiece-1 float-2 bars- 1 toilet
3. Majestic	D-Licious	350	1 roadpiece - 1 carosa - 1 bar
4. XC Lance	XC-Lanz		
5. OPC Group	Claudius & Oreo	450	2 roadpiece - 1 float - 2 bars - 1 relay
6. Royal Group	NBO		1 float
7. Champagne	Tsunami	400	3 seccion
8. TOB	Youth X-Treme/ Upgrade Music	800	1 float - 2 bars - 1 toilet - 1 relay
9. Dushi Carn. Group	Dushi Band	300	2 roadpieces - 1 bar
10. Los Laga Bay	Robert y Su Solo Banda Show	460	1 float - 1 bar
11. Pleaser & Teasers	Le Groove	250	1 bar
Last Lap	BMW		
Total		1609	

Carnaval Schedule

7:00 p.m.	FRI. FEB. 21	Aruba's 60th Carnaval Grand Queen Election and Coronation Aruba Entertainment Center
12:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	SAT. FEB. 22	Children's Carnaval Parade in Noord Aruba Tivoli Lighting Parade - Oranjestad
1:00 p.m.	SUN. FEB. 23	Grand Children Carnaval Parade Oranjestad
7:00 p.m.	MON. FEB. 24	Aruba's 1st Carnaval Multicultural Queen Election & Coronation Aruba Entertainment Center
7:00 p.m.	TUE. FEB. 25	Tourist Night Steelband and Costume Show Downtown Oranjestad
8:00 p.m.	WED. FEB. 26	International Concert – Window to the World Caribbean Night
8:00 p.m.	THU. FEB. 27	Parada di Luz -- San Nicolas



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Costa Linda Beach Resort honors its stellar employees



ORANJESTAD, Aruba – February 16th, 2014: Costa Linda Beach Resort's management recently honored some of the resort's most valued employees in recognition of their efforts in delivering excellent service. These employees have been lauded by owners and

guests for among others "going the extra mile" for them without being asked, for providing information and help and for offering assistance with sincerity and a smile.

Not only were employees who are directly employed by Costa Linda recognized, but

the resort also honored associates working for its concessionaires, who are mentioned time and time again on comment cards and on TripAdvisor.

First off, Costa Linda awarded the Employee of the Month for January 2014 title to Joseph Dor, who works in the Maintenance Department as a gardener.

Also honored during a special ceremony was Wilmer Quero, who received the Employee of the Month for December 2013 award. Wilmer was the employee most mentioned on resort comment cards as Star Employee in the "In Search of Excellence" category from September through December 2013!

In addition, Costa Linda management expressed its appreciation towards concierge Esther Philips, who works on premises for De Palm Tours and Rosy Deveaux, who works as a waitress at Water's Edge Restaurant and Bar. Esther and Rosy received numerous mentions on the comment cards, as well as on TripAdvisor for being outstanding in guest relations and service.

Costa Linda Beach Resort



congratulates these stellar employees and employees of concessionaires on their awards and all employees who make every single day at the resort a special one for all owners and guests. Keep up the good work and keep reaching for the stars!

Costa Linda Beach Resort, with 155 luxurious 2 and 3 bedroom suites, fully equipped kitchens, ocean view balconies and various restaurants and bars, is located on Eagle Beach. The resort features a tropical pool, whirlpool spas, children's pool and playground, tennis courts, fitness center, gift shop, jewelry shop and Spa. Costa Linda is the perfect hideaway on Aruba's finest, award winning beach.

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UN alarmed at spike in executions in Iran

GENEVA — The U.N. Human Rights Office says it is alarmed at the reported spike in executions in Iran since the beginning of the year. The office says at least 80 people have been executed, but some reports put that figure as high as 95.

The U.N. agency says most executions in Iran are for drug-related offenses. Spokeswoman Ravina Shamdasani says these crimes are non-lethal and, as such, do not meet the international law standard of "most serious crimes," for which the death penalty can be applied.

"We have repeatedly made our concerns known to the government, privately and in public, and there were some encouraging signs last year where political prisoners were released, etc. So, we were hoping and we were encouraged by these signs, but it appears, at least in the past seven weeks that in fact executions have been scaled up," she said.

Shamdasani says a number

of people have been executed in secret and at least seven people in public this year. The most common method of execution is by hanging. She says the U.N. Human Rights office is particularly concerned about the reported execution in secret last month of two members of the minority Ahwaz Arab community.

She says the two men did not have a fair trial as stipulated under international law. She says they reportedly were denied access to a lawyer and their families for the first nine months of their detention. She says they allegedly had been tortured to force them to confess. Shamdasani tells VOA the two men were sentenced to death on charges of "enmity against God," corruption on earth, and acts against national security.

"The problem with this charge of "enmity against God" is that it is so ill-defined and so broad that it can be applied to a

whole host of offenses," she said. "I am sure blasphemy would fall within that as well. But, it can be applied to a whole host of other offenses as well. And, this is why it is particularly problematic... The fact that they have been executed raises serious questions, in addition to the questions that we usually have about application of the death penalty in Iran on drug offenses, on offenses that do not meet the high threshold - the fact that they hail from this minority group and that they worked for cultural organizations is further cause for concern."

The U.N. office reports at least 500 people were executed in 2013, including 57 in public. However, some sources think that figure may be as high as 625.

U.N. human rights advocates are urging Teheran to immediately halt executions and to establish a moratorium on the death penalty.

In the Ukraine, signs of progress, and questions, after deal to end fighting



AFP photo shows a flower and a rosary being placed on a helmet on February 21, 2014 near the site in central Kiev where an anti-government protester was killed during clashes with police on the evening of February 20

Kiev -- Hours after government and opposition leaders signed an agreement ending days of deadly fighting, the Ukraine's parliament moved quickly to cut the president's powers, sack the interior minister and pass a bill that could free jailed opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko.

The changes, passed by a constitutional majority that can't be vetoed, mark a stunning shift from just a day ago, when President Viktor Yanukovych sent security forces into the streets to battle protesters angry over his pivot toward Russia and other issues.

Tymoshenko, a former prime minister who earlier was a hero of the country's 2004 revolution, is a powerful symbol to the opposition. She was imprisoned in 2011 after what international observers saw as a politically motivated sham trial.

She went on a hunger strike the following year after allegedly being beaten unconscious by guards.

The parliamentary action comes after Yanukovych, opposition leaders and representatives of the European Union signed a deal yesterday afternoon meant to end the country's political crisis and bloody fighting that has left parts of Kiev a war zone.

The agreement -- hashed out overnight and into the afternoon among Ukrainian leaders, opposition figures and European Union representatives -- calls for cuts in the president's power by rolling back the constitution to an earlier version.

It calls for further constitutional reform to be completed by September, according to a draft posted on the German Foreign Office's website.

It also requires presidential elections "as soon as the new

Constitution is adopted but no later than December 2014."

Protesters are to withdraw from streets and public buildings they've occupied during the crisis and turn in illegal weapons, according to the deal. Security forces are to "step back from confrontational posture" and use force only to protect public buildings, the agreement says.

A joint investigation into the recent violence will follow. Authorities, opposition representatives and the European Council will be included, according to the deal.

A cheer went up from the crowd in Kiev's Independence Square when the agreement was announced. Protesters waved the Ukrainian flags under clear skies free of the choking smoke from burning barricades that has characterized recent days.

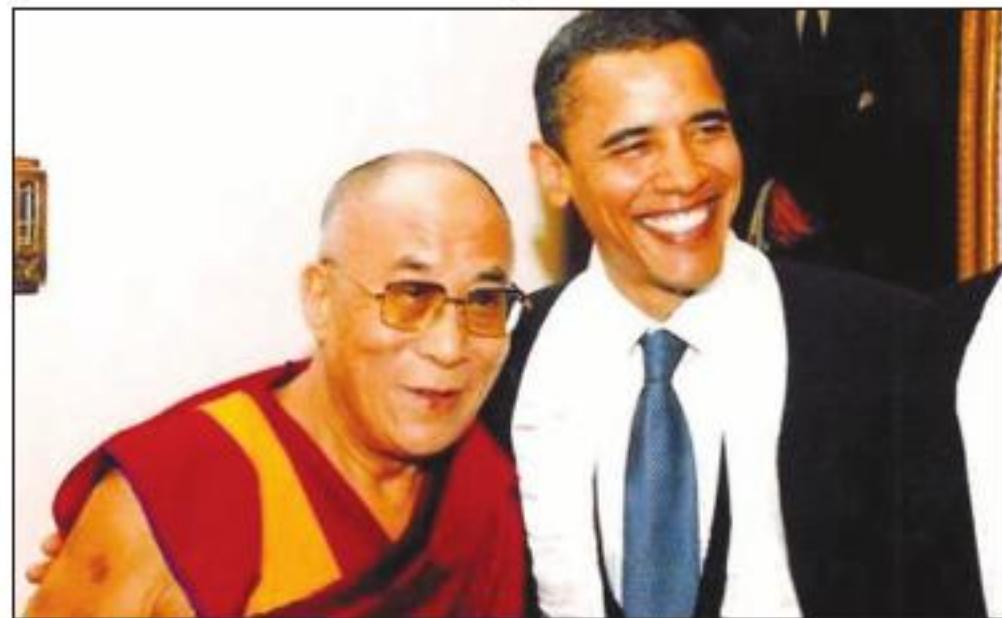
It remained to be seen if the deal would be enough to overcome the nation's deep divisions and mistrust on both sides inflamed by the recent violence.

The Ukrainian parliament, the Rada, moved quickly to fulfill the first requirement of the agreement -- passing a law to roll back the country's constitution to an earlier version that limits the President's powers.

It later passed legislation sacking Interior Minister Vitali Zakharchenko, citing "abuse of power" in the crackdown on protesters, agreed to compensate injured or slain protesters and their families and voted to decriminalize the charge on which Tymoshenko was sent to prison.

Tymoshenko's freedom was not expected to be immediate. A court must now act to free her, and other charges pending against her remain in place.

Obama throws support behind Dalai Lama, Tibet rights



WASHINGTON (AFP) - US President Barack Obama on Friday offered his "strong support" for the protection of Tibetans' human rights in China as he defied protests from Beijing to meet the Dalai Lama.

With China warning that the meeting would derail ties between the world's two largest economies, Obama took care to avoid any trappings of an official visit, receiving the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader in the Map Room of the White House residence and not the Oval Office where he usually talks to dignitaries.

The Dalai Lama, usually chatty and playful with foreign audiences, was nowhere to be seen at the White House, which did not allow in reporters.

The administration instead released an official photograph of the robed Buddhist monk gesticulating with one hand and clutching prayer beads in the other as he spoke to a studious-looking Obama over glasses of water.

In Beijing, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Yesui summoned the US chargé d'affaires, Daniel Kritenbrink, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

"China expresses strong indignation and firm opposition," Zhang was quoted as saying.

The White House in a statement said that Obama ex-

pressed "his strong support for the preservation of Tibet's unique religious, cultural, and linguistic traditions and the protection of human rights for Tibetans in the People's Republic of China."

The statement said that Obama backed the Dalai Lama, who fled his homeland for India in 1959, in his "Middle Way" path of peacefully advocating greater autonomy for Tibetans.

Obama called for China to resume talks with the Dalai Lama's envoys, which broke down in 2010 after making no headway.

The statement rejected Beijing's charges that the Dalai Lama, a self-described pacifist, had a separatist agenda and that his meeting was part of a plot to split China.

China calls the Dalai Lama a "wolf in sheep's clothing."

Hua called the Dalai Lama a "political exile who has long been engaged in anti-China separatist activities under the cloak of religion."

"The US leader's meeting with the Dalai is a gross interference in China's internal affairs, a severe violation of codes of international relations and will seriously impair China-US relations," she said.

Lobsang Sangay, the Tibetan prime minister-in-exile, dismissed Beijing's criticism, saying that the Dalai Lama has clearly stated he does not have an "anti-China" agenda and is not seeking independence.

Sangay hailed Obama for holding his third meeting as president with the Dalai Lama. The two Nobel peace laureates last met in 2011.

China has for decades voiced anger at foreign dignitaries' meetings with the Dalai Lama, who has developed a global following and addresses standing-room-only crowds across the Western world and India.

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Former Guantanamo detainees seek US damages for 'abuse'

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Five former Guantanamo detainees are seeking damages for what they say were years of sexual, mental and physical abuse at the US detention center, where they were held without charge or trial.

The men from Turkey, Uzbekistan and Algeria, who are now settled in other countries, alleged Friday at a US appeals court that they were subjected to torture that included forced nudity, sexual harassment and beatings, first in Afghanistan and then at the military jail in Cuba.

Justices will make their ruling in several weeks, but one of them, Judge David Tatel, said military and civilian officials at the Pentagon had failed in their duty.

"Their job is to protect the detainees from abuse, they failed to do so," he said.

Russell Cohen, lawyer for the men, said in the appeal: "From their earliest interactions with US soldiers and interrogators, Mr Celikoglus, Mr Sen, Mr Mert, Mr Hasam and Mr Muhammad were subjected to physical, mental and religious abuse carried out by US soldiers and/or civilians who were under the command authority of officials in the Department of Defense."

Cohen said in the appeal that three of the men spent two more years at Guantanamo after they had been cleared for release, and "continue to suffer the physical and mental effects of their detention, abuse and torture, and the stigma of their having been detained in Guantanamo."

"Plaintiffs were subjected to various forms of religious and cultural abuse," he said, adding that this included the

confiscation of their Korans.

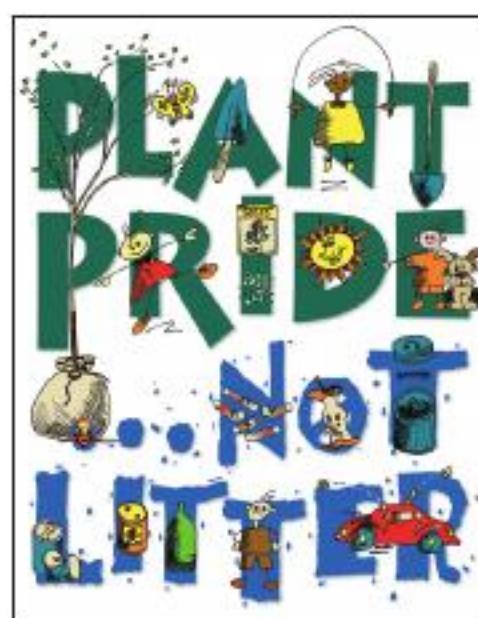
The US government argues that neither US nor international law applies.

"Plaintiffs have no constitutional rights as they are non-resident aliens located outside United States sovereign territory," it said in response.

Shayana Kadidal, senior staff attorney at the non-profit Center for Constitutional Rights, said the men's lives had been "irreparably damaged."

"The US government acknowledges they were wrongly imprisoned for years yet refuses to compensate them and help them rebuild their lives," said Kadidal.

"Guantanamo may close one day, but as long as the Obama administration refuses to apologize in any way for what happened there, these men will carry their scars forever."



US bans bidis made by Indian tobacco company



WASHINGTON (AFP) - US regulators Friday banned the sale and import of small cigarettes known as bidis made by an Indian company, their first such action since being given oversight of tobacco products in 2009.

Bidis are small, hand-rolled cigarettes that contain tobacco wrapped in leaves from a tendu tree, and may come in various flavors.

The move by the US Food and Drug Administration applies to four varieties made by Jash International, which an agency spokeswoman described to AFP as an Indian company with headquarters in Illinois.

The ban was instituted because the products were found to be substantially different from existing tobacco products on the market as of 2007, and did not meet new regulatory requirements, the FDA said.

The order applies to Sutra Bidis Red, Sutra Bidis Menthol, Sutra Bidis Red Cone, and Sutra Bidis Menthol Cone.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has warned that bidis contain higher levels of nicotine, tar and carbon monoxide than conventional cigarettes.

Two percent of high school students and 1.7 percent of middle school students smoke bidis, according to a 2011 CDC survey.



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Hazing turned tragic? Death of 6 students perplexes Portugal

LISBON - Was it freak seas? Hazing amounting to a crime? Or something else?

Portugal is struggling to uncover the reasons why six university students drowned in the middle of the night off a deserted beach near Lisbon, with suspicions crystallising that they were taking part in a ritualised induction turned tragic.

The six college students standing on the shore, wearing traditional black university capes, were swept away to their deaths. Only the seventh member of the expedition, 23-year-old João Gouveia, survived. After groping in the sand for the hat where he remembered he had left his cellphone, Gouveia called the police, who found him half-drowned, the weekly Expresso reported.

Hours later, as Gouveia was discharged from hospital, the first body washed up on the shore. It was Tiago Campos, 21, whose neck had been broken by the brutal impact of the wave.

The deaths occurred in December, when the group of students plunged into the winter surf off Meco, a small village south of Lisbon where they had rented a house.

But following the funerals and the tributes, and the somewhat odd silence from the sole



survivor — who simply told the police that they had been caught off guard by the giant wave — the parents of the other victims began asking the obvious question: what was a group of students doing at 1 am on a freezing cold night on a deserted beach, wearing their university capes?

For days now, there has been a growing certainty that they were there for a hazing ritual reserved for members of an exclusive university club.

That theory has been bolstered by the stubborn silence of a seventh student who was the sole survivor, and media investigations that bit by bit have revealed details.

"The fate of these young people swallowed up by the waves... forces us to pause. We must ban university hazings,"

were seen by some as an attempt to protect the imposed rites of passage on undergraduates, which are often characterised by humiliation and physical abuse.

Newspapers have unleashed editorials lashing the long-tolerated university student rites as obsolete and cruel, with the Diario de Noticias writing: "Humiliating somebody is a violent act."

But student bodies protest that hazing is a valuable mechanism to create solidarity and a shared identity.

Although hazing used to be limited to the faculties in Coimbra, in the past couple of decades the practice has spread across Portugal, especially to private universities that have been created.

"In institutions with less history and tradition, we are seeing an attempt to compensate by giving greater importance to this ritualisation," one sociologist, Elísio Estanque, explained.



Michelle Obama on the 'Tonight Show'



NEW YORK - On Thursday night Mrs. Obama was on NBC's "Tonight Show," demonstrating her comedy chops in a sketch called "Ew!"

Mrs. Obama played herself, and that meant promoting fitness, saying "ew" to jelly doughnuts, and getting up off the couch for an "Ew" dance party.

While in New York, Mrs. Obama promoted another of her healthy-living initiatives, the Drink Up campaign, which encourages drinking water. She visited the New Museum in Manhattan, which has an exhibit of street art that encourages people to drink more water. She also appeared at a private fundraiser, report-

edly at the home of Obama "bundler" Maneesh Goyal.

Mrs. Obama also made a push for enrollment in health insurance, and came up with a new term for "young invincibles," the 20-somethings who don't think they need coverage: "knuckleheads."

"They're the ones cooking for the first time and slicing their fingers," she said. And "dancing on the barstools."

The first lady also cautioned that her older daughter turns 16 this summer and is ready to learn to drive.

"Ladies and gentlemen in D.C. --watch out," she warned with a laugh. "Malia Obama on the road. Frightening."

Fan arrested for groping 'Modern Family' star in Australia



SYDNEY (AFP) - Australian police said Friday they had arrested a man for allegedly groping "Modern Family" star Sarah Hyland at an event for fans in Sydney, as the US actress spoke of her distress. Hyland, who plays oldest sibling Haley Dunphy in the smash-hit US sitcom, was signing autographs with fellow cast members at a cocktail function on Thursday, and reportedly left in tears. "Sorry to all the fans outside the #qantas event that I didn't get to say hi to but I had to leave due to an inappropriate touch of a fan," the 23-year-old later tweeted. Police said a 29-year-old man had been arrested and charged with assault through an act of indecency. He was bailed to reappear in court on March 14. The cast are in Australia to film a vacation episode of the Emmy- and Golden Globe-winning series with locations set to include Sydney and the Great Barrier Reef.



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Buster's is back in Eagle Beach at Trop Casino

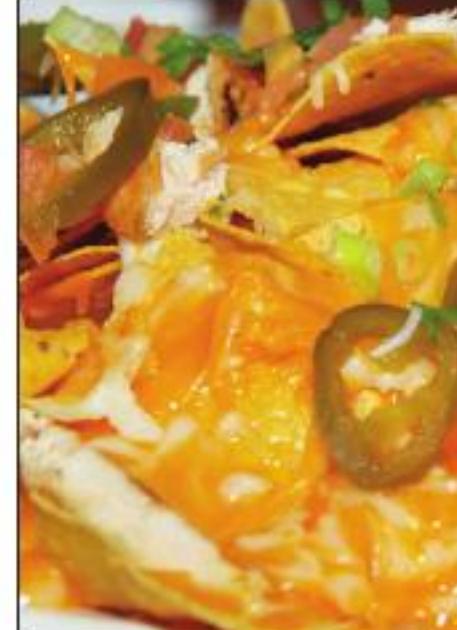


The home of the Beer Pong drinking game

-- Fans of Aruba's favorite sports bar are happy to hear that Buster's Garage has relocated to the restaurant/bar space inside Trop Casino. Now Eagle Beach resort guests have a great place for a bargain-priced breakfast or a bucket of beer while rooting for the team of their choice.

Buster's has that great, homey feel of settling in to enjoy a game with buddies, greatly due to the warmth and enthusiasm of owner Rusty. He takes pride in making patrons feel welcome. "If somebody really needs to watch their home team on the field, we'll be happy to put it on for them," he confidently assured us. "We

have 3 satellite dishes with separate packages to pick up every station imaginable. If there is a game going on out there somewhere, we'll find it."



With giant screens everywhere throughout the joint, there isn't a bad seat in the house. Aside from their all day menu of game-watching favorites, they also feature a hearty breakfast menu. The "Grand Slam Platter" includes eggs any style, pancakes or waffles, bacon, juice, fresh made home fries with coffee or tea for only \$9. Lunch and dinner menus reflect the same moderate pricing with required sports bar standards such as chicken wings, club sandwiches, burgers and a heaping helping of nachos, averaging \$9; pizza and main courses range from \$11 to \$15.

Aside from the games and the gambling, patrons can expect great entertainment three nights weekly with one of Aruba's most popular trios, "Threesome." There are also some wild times getting acquainted with Rusty's Beer Pong, the Drinking Game of Champions. Win or lose, players always end up with a smile on their face.

This family friendly place, with air hockey and video games for the kids, along with a special menu for young ones, is open 7 days a week from 7:30 AM until 1:00 AM for late night snacking and fun.

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Australia spends \$4 bn on border patrol aircraft

SYDNEY (AFP) - Australia on Friday said it will buy eight Poseidon aircraft for Aus\$4 billion (US\$3.6 billion), which will form the core of its surveillance and maritime strike capacity for decades to come.

The Boeing planes will be used to monitor over 2.5 million square kilometres of the country's marine jurisdiction -- some four percent of the world's oceans.

"The first duty of government is the defence of the nation. This is a government which is absolutely committed to the border security of our country," said Prime Minister Tony Abbott.

Steve Jobs approved for a 2015 U.S. postage stamp

WASHINGTON - the US Postal Service intends to honor the late tech icon by putting his visage on a commemorative stamp.

Stamp subjects are normally kept secret until just before printing, but the Washington Post obtained a document outing approved stamps for the next few years. The Apple co-founder's stamp is already in design development for 2015, alongside stamps for music legends Elvis Presley and James Brown.



Australia, a close ally of the United States, is expected to use the planes to patrol far over the Indian Ocean, which has become one of the

world's most vital energy supply routes.

The new aircraft will replace Australia's ageing Lockheed AP-3C Orion aircraft.

The P-8A is described as highly versatile and able to "conduct search and rescue, anti-submarine and maritime strike missions using torpedoes and Harpoon missiles".

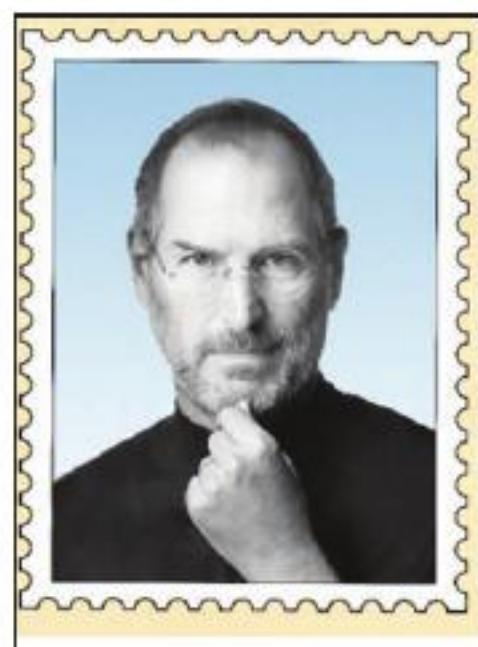
Chief of the Air Force, Air Marshall Geoff Brown, said they would give Australia a cutting edge advantage in protecting its borders.

Abbott played down their possible use in halting the flow of asylum-seeker boats that depart from Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

Halting the flood of asylum-seeker boats arriving in Australia's north has been a key policy of the conservative government since it was elected last year.

Reports recently said Australia also planned to purchase seven giant unmanned US-made Triton drones for Aus\$3 billion for border patrol duties.

The use of large unmanned aircraft has been mulled for a decade in Australia but the previous Labor government would not sign off on the concept as it reportedly believed the technology was not mature enough.



How To Stay Healthy

- ✓ Exercise Frequently
- ✓ Eat Healthy Foods.
- ✓ Drink Plenty of Water.

Japan gamers finally get PS4 at midnight launch



TOKYO (AFP) - Diehard gamers in Japan who began queuing earlier this week finally got their hands on a new PlayStation 4 as Sony unleashed its console on home turf in a midnight launch. The long-awaited Japanese launch comes after a stellar debut in the United States and Europe where more than 5.4 million units have been shifted since November, offering a bright ray of hope to Sony after years of gloomy sales of its key consumer electronics goods. At midnight (1500 GMT Friday), the first 100 customers were allowed to take home a new console from Sony Building, a flagship display venue in Tokyo's bustling district of Ginza, putting the lucky few fans hours ahead of a nationwide mass release. Some of the eager fans had queued for the past two days to be among the first in Japan to own the new console. Early adopters of the PS4 in Europe and the US have enthused over its vast computing capacity and the cinematic graphics it makes possible. In the coveted US market, Sony boasted that video game industry sales data, reported last week by NPD Group, showed PS4 is far outselling Microsoft's Xbox One consoles, also released in November.

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Aruba exits FATF follow-up process

ORANJESTAD -- In 2009, Aruba's anti-money laundering/countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) system was subject to a mutual evaluation by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). The mutual evaluation report (MER) was adopted by the FATF in October 2009. The MER showed a low level of compliance with the FATF Recommendations. In view hereof, Aruba was placed in the enhanced and, subsequently, in the regular follow-up process.

Since 2009 a complete overhaul of Aruba's AML/CFT system has taken place. Significant resources were allocated by the government and other stakeholders involved, as well as by the

financial sector, to strengthen the AML/CFT framework.

On February 12, 2014, the FATF Plenary acknowledged that Aruba had made significant progress in addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2009 MER. It concluded that Aruba is now largely compliant with the FATF Core and Key Recommendations and, thus, can exit the regular follow-up process. The report prepared by the FATF, based on Aruba's 8th follow-up report, contains a detailed description and analysis of the actions taken by Aruba since the MER of October 2009. This report can be found on the website of the FATF: <http://www.fatf-gafi.org/topics/mutual-evaluations/documents/fur-aruba-2014.html>.

About the FATF

The FATF is an independent inter-governmental body established in 1989. The FATF currently has 36 members (34 member countries, as well as the European Commission and the Gulf Co-operation Council). The FATF develops and promotes policies to protect the global financial system against money laundering, terrorist financing and the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The FATF Recommendations are recognized as the global AML/CFT standards. The FATF conducts mutual evaluations to assess its member countries' levels of implementation of the FATF Recommendations.

Fewest Americans in almost two years say U.S. economy worsening

NEW YORK -- The share of consumers expecting the economy to worsen fell in February to an almost two-year low as Americans looked beyond harsh winter weather.

Thirty percent, the fewest since May 2012, said the economy was headed in the wrong direction, data from the Bloomberg Consumer Comfort Index showed today. The gap between positive and negative expectations was minus 3, an eight-month high. The weekly measure was little changed at minus 30.6 for the period ended Feb. 16 from minus 30.7.

Snowstorms and colder

temperatures in the eastern U.S. last week that shuttered government offices, stalled highway traffic and canceled flights did little to dismay Americans about the economic outlook. More job and income growth would go further in helping bolster the economy after the weather-related slowdown at the start of the year.

"The deep freeze in sentiment is slowly melting as the economy mends due to steady job growth and a reduced pace of firings," said Joseph Brusuelas, a senior economist at Bloomberg LP in New York. "This is in contrast with the polar vortex that has blanketed

much of the nation and economic activity in early 2014."

The share of respondents holding downbeat expectations on the economy this month declined from 33 percent in January. Forty-two percent projected little change, compared with 39 percent in January, while 27 percent said the expansion is getting better, down from 28 percent.

The gap between negative and positive responses has narrowed each month since reaching an almost two-year low of minus 31 in October, when lawmakers' failure to agree on a budget resulted in a 16-day partial federal shutdown.



PRIMM, NV - The Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System is seen in an aerial view on February 20, 2014 in the Mojave Desert in California near Primm, Nevada. The largest solar thermal power-tower system in the world, owned by NRG Energy, Google and BrightSource Energy, opened last week in the Ivanpah Dry Lake and uses 347,000 computer-controlled mirrors to focus sunlight onto boilers on top of three 459-foot towers, where water is heated to produce steam to power turbines providing power to more than 140,000 California homes. (AFP PHOTO)

Daily Exchange Rates				
Current as of: 02/21/2014	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.57	1.59	1.61
Britain	GBP	2.91	2.96	3.02
Switzerland	CHF	200.07	200.79	201.59
Netherlands	EUR	241.92	244.13	246.58
Sweden	SEK	26.16	26.88	27.68
Denmark	DKK	31.76	32.48	33.28
Norway	NOK	28.20	28.92	29.72
Japan	JPY	172.19	173.76	175.50
(per 10,000)				

All rates for amounts up to AWG 100,00 per item.

Avon bets Hispanics, smaller selection, price hikes can fix U.S. sales

NEW YORK/BOCA RATON, Fla. - Avon Products Inc hopes higher prices, a growing Hispanic market and smaller selection of beauty products will help it reverse years of declines in U.S. sales, top executives said yesterday.

The company's North American sales have fallen by half since 2007, and last year, the size of its army of Avon Ladies sales representatives, shrank 15 percent.

Yet the world's largest direct-selling cosmetics company, part of U.S. popular culture for its "Ding Dong, Avon Calling" advertisements, insists it can fix the business.

"That's our No. 1 priority," Avon Chief Executive Sheri McCoy told analysts at the Consumer Analyst Group of New York meeting in Boca Raton, Florida, where her team laid out in the most detail yet how Avon plans to return to growth in its home market, despite short-term risk to sales.

Avon's senior vice president for North America, Pablo Munoz, put the growing U.S. Hispanic population at the center of the company's plan, saying Hispanic sales representatives are "incredibly committed" to the Avon brand.

The 10 top highest-grossing districts in the United States out of 850 for Avon are primarily Hispanic, Munoz said at CAGNY. So Avon is planning more marketing aimed specifically at Hispanics and dedicating fewer resources on other districts.

Avon's North American business has been unprofitable for the last three years and Munoz said reducing costs is paramount to Avon reaching its goal of returning to profit in 2015.

A smaller assortment of

Avon products will help lower production and printing costs. A more focused assortment will also help sales representatives because they will have fewer products to learn how to demonstrate, Munoz said.

Perhaps the most delicate step for Avon is raising prices, which Munoz said had remained largely unchanged for five years, in part to keep with rising costs but also so more money ends up in the pockets of sales representatives.

"It's very clear if we continue on the path we are on, that earning opportunity will continue to be reduced," Munoz said.

While one analyst said the steps Avon is taking make sense, he doubted they would be enough to stem the hemorrhage in North America, which now accounts for less than 15 percent of its global revenue.

"It's gotten smaller and smaller as a business for a very long time with no end in sight," said Ali Dibadj, an analyst with Sanford C. Bernstein & Co. "Our view about the U.S. is they need to do something very dramatic — getting rid of it is a potential step."

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

U	P	I	N	F	E	A	D	O
S	S	E	C	A	L	W	A	N
S	I	R	S	I	N	K	S	O
E	L	S	I	E	B	O	N	O
P	O	O	L	E	N	D	O	W
I	L	L	H	E	R	O	S	A
C	A	S	C	A	D	E	A	S
V	I	C	A	R	P	I	P	E
A	S	H	C	U	B	E	F	A
T	E	A	U	S	U	A	U	S
S	E	N	T	A	S	T	E	L

COMICS

PICKLES



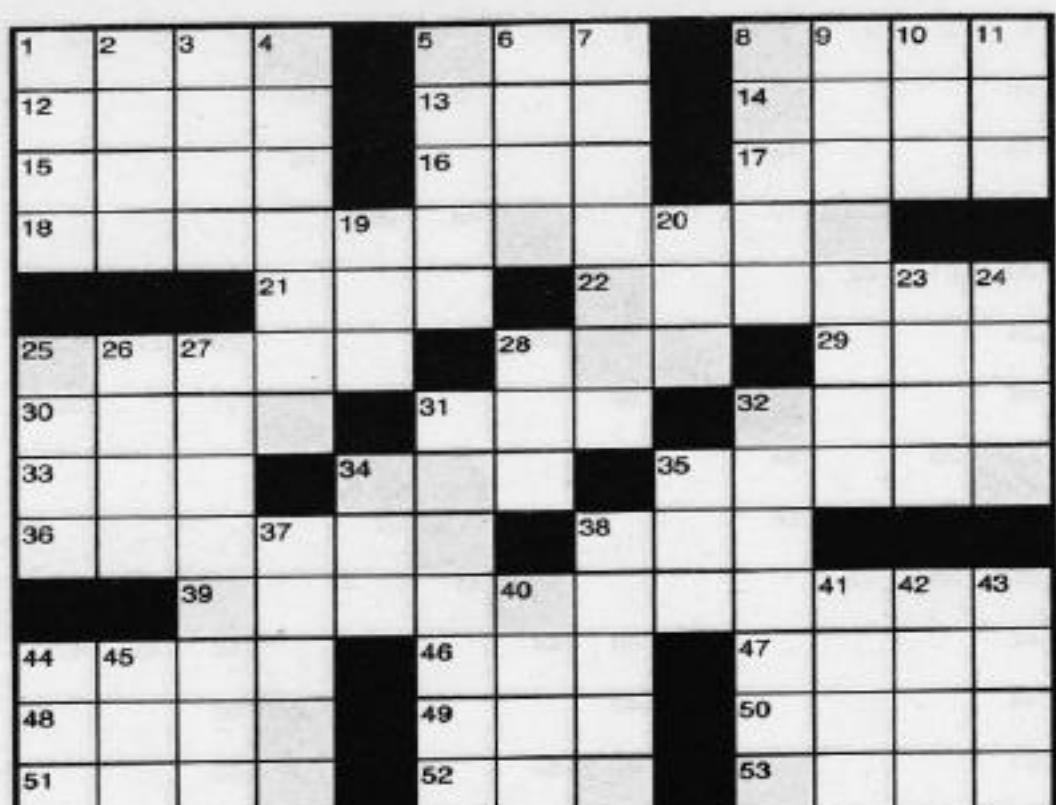
MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBES



CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Unhurried
 - "__ chance!"
 - Proofreading comment
 - Mama's man
 - Chopping instrument
 - Remove peel
 - For always
 - Kith's partner
 - Rodriguez of baseball
 - Hurdle for Jack
 - Portugal's cont.
 - Magician's word
 - Hung on
 - Cager Unseld
 - Sock __
 - Baseball

- scores**
- Margaret's nickname
 - __ beer
 - North Pole worker
 - Wheel's center
 - Cries loudly
 - Makes happy
 - Actor Danson
 - Annoying things
 - Telegraph
 - Nay-sayer's side
 - Snazzy
 - Glen
 - La Plata's locale (abbr.)
 - Domini
 - Carter and Irving
 - Feline zodiac

- sign**
- Booty

DOWN

 - Specification, for short
 - Volcanic outpouring
 - Dentist's " __ wide!"
 - Prison officials
 - WWII alliance
 - Camper's stake (2 wds.)
 - Astronaut's environment
 - Daytime TV program (2 wds.)
 - Before, in poems
 - Range rider's

see our website:
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- nickname**
- Pull with effort
 - Treasury dept. bureau
 - Hammer, e.g.
 - Makes a choice
 - Manitoba Indian
 - Quiet
 - Unjustly
 - Spider's handiwork
 - "Cats," for one
 - Extremely left or right, in politics
 - That gal
 - Play the ponies
 - Shoe stretchers
 - Valentino's dance
 - Wrenched
 - Cry of dismay (2 wds.)
 - Padre's son
 - Guy from Glasgow
 - Wheeling's state (2 wds., abbr.)
 - "__ the Walrus" (2 wds.)

SOLUTION

7	1	9	4	3	8	2	6	5
5	4	6	9	2	7	1	8	3
2	6	1	3	4	5	6	1	2
8	9	7	3	4	6	8	7	9
4	3	5	2	6	1	9	3	5
1	5	3	8	9	2	7	4	6
6	8	2	5	7	4	9	3	1
9	7	4	6	1	3	5	2	8

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Fri.-Sun. 9 p.m.-2 a.m.

CAS MARIE
Alzheimer's Day
Care Center
Tel: 5696910

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Horacio Oduber Hospital
Tel.5274000
EMERGENCY
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POLICE HDQS
Telephone 100

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Sabana Liber 8 in Noord
Tel: 5673356 / 5838989

Sudoku

9					1	3		
	8						3	
		3					7	4
			2		1	8		9
				7			6	
2		1	7		9			
3	2	8				4		
	4					8		5
			4	3				

Discover authentic Aruban cuisine at The Queen's



Enjoy a true taste of Aruba without having to travel in the charming surroundings of The Queen's Restaurant in the Palm Beach Plaza Mall. Your host, Varella Innocencia has brought her very popular Oranjestad eatery to Palm Beach, showcasing authentic local cuisine only a short walk away from the major resorts.

The "hipper" and elegant new digs offer beautiful views, but Mama Luisa's magical touch in the kitchen is what

first won this charming eatery their loyal clientele. She can be counted on to be conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations. As Varella says, "My mom loves and lives to cook. Even when she is not at work in the restaurant, she is experimenting with new dishes all day at home."

She is the Queen of the Kitchen."

Be sure to try Luisa's acclaimed "Carni Stoba di Ma-

machi"- "Grandma's Beef Stew," or their fresh, whole snapper, with Mama Luisa's delectable salsa criollo. Don't miss the specialty of the house, a favorite local delicacy, Keshi Yena - "Filled Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all encased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It is satisfying and particularly memorable. Regional side dishes and some of Mama's secret recipe prepara-

tion of banana hasa and creamy potatoes provide a deliciously picturesque meal.

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to go, reasonably priced and easily accessible. A full menu can be seen on their website, <http://www.thequeensaruba.com/>.

Mama Luisa hard at work in the kitchen

Aside from an extensive regular menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season, and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't be shy about asking for something that may not be on the menu, as they are always eager to please.

The Queen's is open daily from 3:00 pm - 11:00 pm, offering both indoor and outdoor dining. Tel: 5860606

Budget Car Rental celebrating 50 years budget-minded service!



Explore Aruba in a Jeep wrangler hard top

--The car rental name synonymous with savings will next month celebrate their golden anniversary of operating on Aruba! One of the first of its kind to establish a car rental agency with highly competitive prices, it still maintains that standard of offering the best service, a diverse fleet of vehicles to meet each renter's needs, at the best price possible.

Budget has a fleet of 250 autos on Aruba, ranging from subcompact to authentic Jeep Wrangler® hardtop 4X4 or the stylish Toyota Rav 4, for exploring Aruba's outback in air-conditioned comfort. Their standard Toyota Yaris, the most popular model, is known for quality and dependability.

Each year, they refresh 25% of their fleet and retire the older cars. Compared to the U.S., car rentals are quite affordable on Aruba, with the third party liability insurance included in the rental rates, as required by law.

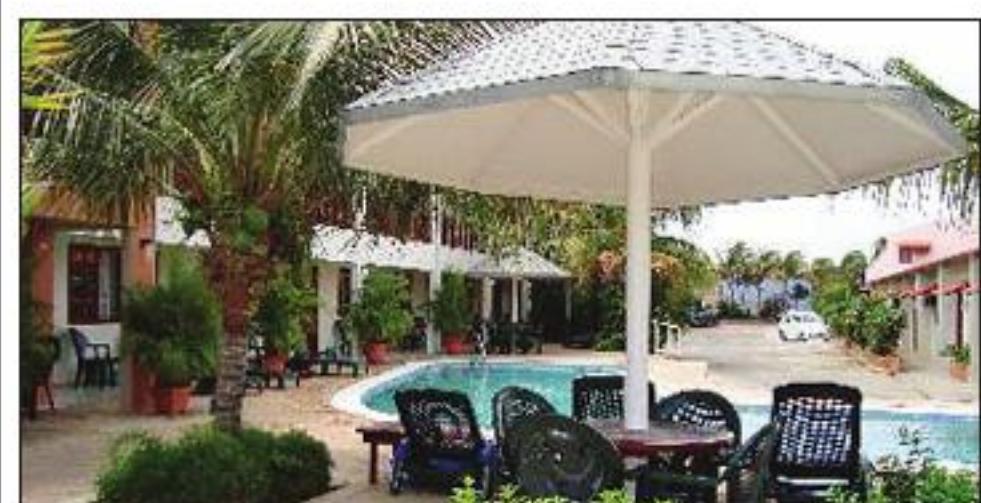


Clean, dependable Toyota Yaris

Budget's head office is in Camacuri, not far from the airport, but they maintain an outlet right at the airport and another conveniently located in the Arawak Gardens in Palm Beach, an easy stroll from all the Palm Beach resorts. Budget will provide free transportation to their Arawak Gardens outlet from any hotel, and return you to your door when turning in your car.

Budget has become the world's third largest car rental franchise because of their commitment to quality service and product at the best price possible, and the staff of Budget Car Rental Aruba is equally dedicated to seeing their customers smile.

Enjoy and relax at Quality Apartments Where service is with a smile



Aruba is one of the most beautiful islands in the Caribbean, having long stretches of sugar white beaches, where you can take long peaceful walks or dive in the cleanest of waters found in the world.

The apartments are conveniently located less than one mile from Aruba's most beautiful beaches, like Manchebo Beach and Eagle Beach, near to the hotels and fantastic restaurants.

Quality Apartments is also located only 1 mile from Aruba's greatest casinos, large supermarkets, bank, car rentals, motorcycle rentals.

It has 43 comfortable studio-apartments (max. 3 persons) and 17 luxurious apartments (max. 4 persons) with a loft.

All apartments are com-

pletely furnished with cable TV. The open kitchen is very spacious and equipped with stove top, refrigerator, toaster/oven and coffee maker (microwave optional).

The laundry is accessible to all guests 24 hours a day. There is a large fresh water swimming pool, with a pool deck and beach chairs, where you can relax any time of the day. At the reception, the friendly staff is always ready to attend you with a smile.

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E-mail: quality@setarnet.aw, Website: <http://arubaqualityapartments.com>

Who's winning what at the Winter Olympics



Canada's Jamie Benn (2ndL) scores against US goalkeeper Jonathan Quick (C) during the Men's Ice Hockey Semifinals USA vs Canada



Russia's Victor An (L) competes in the Men's Short Track 5000 m Relay Final

SOCHI (AFP) - Who's winning what at the 2014 Winter Olympics on Friday:

MEN Curling

Dominant Canada won their third successive Olympic men's curling gold with a convincing 9-3 victory over Britain in the final.

After Canada's women's triumph 24 hours earlier, it was the first time that one country had swept both titles at the same Games.

World champions Sweden claimed the bronze medal with a 6-4 extra-end win over China.

Short-track - 500m

Russia's short track star Victor Ahn won the men's 500m short track speed skating gold to add to his earlier gold in the 1,000m event.

Ahn crossed the line in 41.312sec. Wu Dajing of China (41.516) took silver while Canada's Charle Cournoyer won bronze in 41.617.

Short-track - 5000m relay

Russia -- led by speed skat-

ing superstar Victor Ahn -- set a new Olympic record in winning gold in the men's 5,000m relay in front of a vociferous home crowd in Sochi.

The home nation's four-man team crossed the line in 6min 42.100sec. The United States were second (6:42.371) while China took bronze (6:48.341).

WOMEN

Alpine skiing - slalom

American teenager Mikaela Shiffrin showed nerves of steel to add Olympic gold to her world slalom title under floodlights.

The 18-year-old, in pole position after the first run, clocked a combined total of 1min 44.54sec over two runs to finish 0.53sec ahead of Marlies Schild of Austria, winning her fourth Olympic medal in three different Games.

Another Austrian, Katrin Zettel, claimed bronze at 0.81sec, denying fourth-placed German Maria Hoefl-Riesch another shot at the podium in her Olympic swansong.

Biathlon - 4x6km relay

Ukraine raced to a famous vic-

tory in the women's team biathlon relay, defying the tragedy of the violence at home to take gold with an inspiring performance.

The team led from the start in the 4x6 km relay race, finishing in 1hr 10min 2.5sec, defeating second-place Russia by 26.4 seconds. Norway took the bronze.

Ukraine's anchorwoman Olena Pidhrushna was embraced in delight by her teammates as she crossed the line.

Freestyle - ski cross

Marielle Thompson narrowly edged out Canadian compatriot Kelsey Serwa to win the women's ski cross title.

The two Canadians seized control of the race from the start. Sweden's Anna Holmlund took bronze after French veteran Ophelie David crashed near the end.

The medals ensured Canada finish top of the freestyle skiing medals table.

Short-track - 1,000m

South Korea's Park Seung-Hi won the women's 1,000m short-track speed skating, her third medal and second gold of the Sochi Olympics. Park pipped China's Fan Kexin on the line in a time of 1min 30.761sec.

Silver medallist Fan timed 1:30.811 while South Korea's Shim Suk-Hee took bronze in a time of 1:31.027.

Men's ice hockey

Defending champ Canada reached their second-straight Olympic final, spoiling the USA's perfect record and smothering their high-powered offence at the Sochi Games to set up a gold medal clash with Sweden.

Jamie Benn scored early in the second period and goaltender Carey Price stopped all 31 shots he faced for the shutout as Canada defeated the United States 1-0 in a re-match of the 2010 Vancouver Olympic final.

Canada's semi-final victory in the men's ice hockey tournament means they will face Sweden in Sunday's championship game after the Swedes topped Finland 2-1 in an all-Nordic semi.

Canada's win comes just one day after the Canadian women won the gold medal by storming back from a two-goal deficit to beat the USA 3-2 in an overtime thriller.

Undefeated Sweden advanced to the championship game by defeating injury-hit Finland in a re-match of the Turin 2006 final on Friday.

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(From L) China's silver medalist Fan Kexin, South Korea's gold medalist Park Seung-Hi and South Korea's bronze medalist Shim Suk Hee pose during the Women's Short Track 1000 m Flower Ceremony.



(From L) US J R Celski, US Jordan Malone, US Christopher Creveling and US Eduardo Alvarez celebrate after the Men's Short Track 5000 m Relay Final.



Bronze medallist Austria's Kathrin Zettel (L) and Silver medallist Austria's Marlies Schild pose with the Austrian flag during the Women's Alpine Skiing Slalom Flower Ceremony.

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Tennis: Cornet shocks Serena to reach Dubai final

DUBAI (AFP) - Alize Cornet, recovering brilliantly from a mighty collapse in career fortunes, scored her best-ever win by beating world number one Serena Williams 6-4, 6-4 and preventing an all-Williams sisters final at the Dubai Open.

The 24-year-old Frenchwoman, who is about to return to the top 20 after a dismal five-year interval in which she fell from the top 100, made a mere handful of errors as she manoeuvred and harassed the legend to a stunning defeat.

Cornet often rallied valiantly when the powerful American landed her biggest blows, but even more often she found changes of direction and angles to disrupt Serena's rhythm.



That this happened more often than usual to the favourite was unsurprising considering that this was her first tournament since injuring her back in last month's Australian Open.

Serena later pronounced herself "a wee bit embarrassed" by the result, which denied her the chance of a final with older sister Venus Williams, an earlier winner against Caroline Wozniacki.

She also had a fit of incongruous laughing as she claimed that she had "not made that many errors in a match in, I think, at least three years, maybe four years", and had not felt good all week.

In truth, Serena did enough to have beaten most other opponents. But this one was unusually smart and courageous as well as skilful and level-headed, and took her rare opportunity with tremendous panache.

"It's my best ever win - but I haven't realised it yet," Cornet said, still hopping up and down with joy during the on-court interview.

"I played a very good match. Most of the time I didn't even realise who I was playing, and that's the way I had to be. I had to forget it was Serena on the other side, and

just get on with my game."

Cornet also seemed to have an instinct which made her do the right thing at the most important moments, and crucially she changed the mood of the match when she broke Serena's serve at 4-4.

Earlier, Venus Williams had raised the possibility of an all-Williams sisters final for the first time in more than four years when she scored her fourth win of the week.

Her 6-3, 6-2 win over Wozniacki saw her dominate the former world number one from Denmark from start to finish with her heavier, and sometimes cleverly angled, driving.

Once again it suggested that 33-year-old seven times former Grand Slam champion, who is still ranked outside the top 40, may be making her way back - after prolonged health problems - to a position where she could be seeded in major events.

Venus had, she said, really been looking forward to playing Serena again - almost, it sounded, as if for old times' sake. Serena is 32 and it remains to be seen how much her fitness problems and absence of results this year have become a function of the passing years.

Tennis: Anderson ousts Matosevic to reach Delray semis

DELRAY BEACH (AFP) - South African fourth seed Kevin Anderson rallied to reach the semi-finals of the \$474,000 ATP Delray Beach Open on Friday by ousting Australian Marinko Matosevic in a rematch of the 2012 final.

Anderson fired 10 aces and connected on 61 percent of his first serves in a 6-7 (3/7), 6-3, 6-3 victory over his 55th-ranked rival, who had nine aces but also six double-faults and only a 49 percent first-serve success rate.

Seeking his second Delray Beach title in three years and third ATP career crown, Anderson advanced to a Saturday matchup with US qualifier Steve Johnson, who eliminated Spanish sixth seed Feliciano Lopez 6-3, 6-2 in 73 minutes.

Anderson, who lives nearby, surrendered only one break over two hours and 23 minutes in improving to 12-3 all time at Delray Beach and 3-0



against Matosevic.

"I'm in the semis and that's a great feeling."

Anderson's only other title came in 2011 on home soil in Johannesburg.

In later quarter-finals, US second seed John Isner will meet American qualifier Rhyne Williams and Croatian seventh seed Marin Cilic will face Russia's Teymuraz Gabashvili.



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**Football:
2.3
million
World Cup
tickets
sold - FIFA**



FLORIANOPOLIS (AFP) - A total of 2.3 million tickets have been sold for the World Cup's 64 matches, FIFA revealed on Friday.

More than 500,000 tickets were sold in the latest random phase and a further 159,000 will be sold, again exclusively through FIFA, on a first-come, first-served basis between March 12 and April 1.

Those latter tickets will be for matches not including the June 12 opening Game in Sao Paulo and the July 13 final in Rio.

Also virtually sold out are the group matches between England and Italy, the United States and Portugal, the second phase games at Porto Alegre and Sao Paulo and the semi-final at Belo Horizonte.

Of the latest batch of sales, 60 percent were reserved for Brazilian fans, who have snapped up 57 percent of all tickets sold so far.

Brazilians have bagged 906,433 allocated tickets to date, with USA-based fans buying 125,465. Colombians have landed 60,231 ahead of 55,666 for Germany, 53,809 for Argentina, 51,222 for England and 40,446 for Australia.

Olympics: First doping shocks hit Sochi Games

SOCHI (AFP) - The first doping cases to hit the 2014 Sochi Games emerged Friday after a double gold-medal winning German female biathlete and an Italian bobsledder tested positive for banned substances.

German biathlete Evi Sachenbacher-Stehle, who has won two gold medals at previous Olympic Games, confirmed she had tested positive, describing it as the "worst nightmare you can imagine".

Meanwhile, the Italian Olympic Committee said Italian bobsledder William Frul-

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Evi Sachenbacher-Stehle

lani had tested positive for a banned substance and had already been kicked out of the Sochi Games.

The news that a well known athlete as Sachenbacher-Stehle has failed a doping test has caused shock waves in Germany, which for years has prided itself on its tough anti-doping fight.

"I cannot explain how this positive doping test came about," Sachenbacher-Stehle said in a statement, adding that she had had all her dietary supplements tested in a laboratory.

Reports said that the positive test -- carried out on February

17 -- may have come about due to contamination from imported energy bars.

Frullani, 34, tested positive on February 18 for the banned substance dymethylpentylamine. He has been replaced in the Italian four-man bobsleigh team by Samuele Romanini.

The German Olympic Sports Confederation (DOSB) said in a statement that both Sachenbacher-Stehle's 'A' and 'B' samples had tested positive for the stimulant methylhexanamin.

It said she appeared before

an IOC disciplinary commission, has now been excluded from the German team and was leaving Sochi immediately.

Sachenbacher-Stehle, 33, spent most of her long career as a cross country skier before switching last season to biathlon, which mixes both cross country skiing and shooting.

It was as a cross country skier that she won gold in the 4x5 km relay in the Salt Lake City Games of 2002 and then gold in the team sprint in Vancouver 2010.